GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6956
ANSWERED ON:13.05.2002
EXCAVATION OF DINOSAUR IN MADHYA PRADESH
JAGMEET SINGH BRAR

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fossils of dinosaur are excavated by unscrupulous people in Madhya Pradesh and sent to foreign countries on a regular basis over the year;

(b) if so, the reasons for this unchecked illegal excavation; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such illegal excavation and preserve valuable heritage of the country?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a) & (b) The Geological Survey of India (GSI), which inter alia undertakes palaeontological studies on the fossils of old fauna and flora, has informed that it is not aware of any excavation of dinosaur fossils being exported by unscrupulous people of Madhya Pradesh to foreign countries. Nor does DIG (CID), Bhopal have any knowledge of such activity.

(c) GSI has no law, at present, under which it can provide protection to geological sites and prevent excavation as well as movement of fossils. However, in 1995, the Government of Gujarat had declared the dinosaur fossil site at Rahioli, Distt. Kheda as `prohibited area for illegal digging, sale and theft of dinosaur fossils` under the Bombay Police Act 1951.